

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/856,233

Examiner

Tom V Sheng

Applicant(s)

HIRAI, JUN

Art Unit

2673

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE filed on 11/19/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-6,11-28.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 03 March 2004 and 16 August 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 8/25/2004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JIMMY NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Lawrence Russ on 3/14/2005. In the amended claims filed on 11/12/2004, please amend as follow

Claim 1:

line 13, after "memory means for storing", insert "apparatus type";

lines 13-14, delete "on the apparatus type";

line 18, after "of the respective apparatus and", insert "to show".

Claim 5:

line 5, after "storing", insert "apparatus type";

line 5, delete "on the apparatus type";

line 20, after "the respective apparatus and", insert "to show".

Claim 6:

line 5, after "storing", insert "apparatus type";

line 5, delete "on the apparatus type";

line 20, after "the respective apparatus and", insert "to show".

Allowable Subject Matter

Art Unit: 2673

2. Claims 1, 3-6 and 11-28 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the claimed invention is directed to an information processing apparatus connected to a plurality of other apparatuses via a network, such that the power mode of a respective apparatus is queried, and subsequently a display is shown regarding the apparatus type of the respective apparatus and whether the power mode of the respective apparatus is of power-on mode, standby mode or power-off mode.

Independent claims 1, 5 and 6 identify the uniquely distinct features, "determining that the power mode of the respective apparatus is a power-off mode when a response from the respective apparatus is not detected", "when a response from the respective apparatus is detected, for determining whether the power mode of the respective apparatus is power-on mode or standby mode based on the detected response" and "controlling a display to show the apparatus type of the respective apparatus and to show whether the power mode of the respective apparatus is the power-on mode, the standby mode, or the power-off mode".

The Ushijima reference (USPN 5,594,426) discloses a network management station connected to other network stations via a LAN. The network management station periodically polls the network stations as to their operation states. Also, a given network station would send an event notification to the network management station whenever the network station is powered-on or powered-off. Any changes in the operation state or power state would result in a change in display color of the respective network station. The Ushijima reference fails to anticipate or render the above

Art Unit: 2673

underlined limitations obvious. Moreover, Ushijima does not teach storing, retrieving, or displaying the apparatus type of the respective apparatus.

The Ikonen reference (USPN 6,473,078 B1) discloses an integrated display unit that includes a video display and added-on peripheral devices. The integrated display unit detects the presence of signals generated by the operations of the video display and the peripheral devices, and then sets the power consumption state of the integrated display unit based on the presence or absence of the detected signals. The Ikonen reference fails to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious.

Moreover, Ikonen does not teach querying any of the peripheral devices as to its power mode, storing, retrieving, or displaying the apparatus type as to the peripheral devices.

The Takahasi reference (USPN 5,887,193) discloses a controller connected to a plurality of peripheral devices via a common communication line. The controller reads control information from the peripheral devices by issuing state-of-connected-device request messages and stores into a predetermined memory area, called state-of-connection table, of the controller. From the data of the table, the controller is able to display the apparatus type of respective peripheral device and its power mode as to power-on or power-off. For details, see Fig. 54- 57 and column 37, line 27 through column 39, line 64. Still, the Takahasi reference fails to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tom V Sheng whose telephone number is (571) 272-7684. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 6:00pm.

Art Unit: 2673

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached on (571) 272-7681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tom Sheng
March 15, 2005


JIMMY NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER